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have links to more than one area and are configured to consider themselves 'area border routers.' Such routers export only a summary of one area's detailed topological information into another area, and this reduces the amount of topological information the various areas maintain in order to perform their routing functions adequately..."

Thus, Tappan seeks to reduce the router's required topological-information storage. In column 6, Tappan describes a mechanism by which a packet that is routed into a routing domain 44 is assigned a label.

Tappan fails to disclose every limitation of the claims

Claim 1, as amended, now recites "...receiving, from outside the domain, an information message at one of the network devices, the information message having routing information ... *modifying the routing information by applying the given policy of the network device that received the information message to the routing information in the information message to produce policy filtered routing information; and flooding the policy filtered routing information to each of the plurality of network devices...*"

In Figure 6, Applicant's note that the original routing information (the D,IP packet) remains intact throughout its traversal through the domain 44. Accordingly, Applicant's submit that Tappan neither describes nor suggests 'modifying' the routing information as recited in newly amended independent claim 1. Applicant has also added the same limitation to independent claims 8, 15, 22, 24 and 25. For at least the reason that Tappan fails to disclose every limitation of the claims, independent claims, it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over Tappan, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

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Dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23 and 26 serve to add further patentable limitations to their independent parent claims, but are allowable for at least the reasons put forth with regard to the parent claims.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Lindsay G. McGuinness, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date

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Docket No. 120-243
Dd: 2/19/04